

H.R. 2692, AS REPORTED
BY THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON RESEARCH
ON JULY 17, 2003

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “United States Fire
3 Administration Authorization Act of 2003”.

4 SEC. 2. UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATOR.

5 Notwithstanding section 1513 of the Homeland Secu-
6 rity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 553), the Administrator of the
7 United States Fire Administration shall continue to be ap-
8 pointed and compensated as provided under section 5(b)
9 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974
10 (15 U.S.C. 2204(b)).

11 SEC. 3. NATIONAL RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLER STRAT-
12 EGY.

13 Section 30 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Con-
14 trol Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2226) is amended—

15 (1) by inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—” before
16 “The Director, acting”; and

17 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
18 section:

1 “(b) NATIONAL RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLER
2 STRATEGY.—The Administrator shall develop and imple-
3 ment a strategy for promoting the installation and use of
4 residential fire sprinklers. The strategy shall include—

5 “(1) advocacy and informational support to rel-
6 evant stakeholders, including builders, insurers, and
7 State and local decisionmakers;

8 “(2) promotion of residential sprinklers in resi-
9 dences supported by the Federal Government;

10 “(3) a particular focus on residences—

11 “(A) at high risk to fire hazards; and

12 “(B) with occupants at high risk to fire
13 hazards, such as senior citizens; and

14 “(4) a particular focus on localized fire suppres-
15 sion in high-risk areas of residences, such as kitch-
16 ens.”.

17 **SEC. 4. SUPPORT FOR TRAINING TO FIGHT MARITIME**
18 **FIRES.**

19 Subsection (b)(3)(B) of the first section 33 of the
20 Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15
21 U.S.C. 2229(b)(3)(B)) is amended by inserting “maritime
22 firefighting,” after “arson prevention and detection,”.

23 **SEC. 5. FIREFIGHTER ASSISTANCE GRANTS PROGRAM.**

24 The first section 33 of the Federal Fire Prevention
25 and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229) is amended—

1 (1) by striking “Director” each place it appears
2 and inserting “Administrator”;

3 (2) by amending subsection (b)(2) to read as
4 follows:

5 “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE.—The Ad-
6 ministrator shall establish specific criteria for the se-
7 lection of recipients of assistance under this section
8 and shall provide grant-writing assistance to appli-
9 cants.”; and

10 (3) in subsection (e)(2), by striking “operate
11 the office established under subsection (b)(2) and”.

12 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

13 Section 17(g) of the Federal Fire Prevention and
14 Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2216(g)) is amended by
15 striking “to carry out the purposes” and all that follows
16 through the end of subparagraph (K) and inserting “to
17 the Administrator to carry out the purposes of this Act,
18 other than the firefighter assistance program under sec-
19 tion 33—

20 “(A) \$58,928,000 for fiscal year 2004;

21 “(B) \$60,700,000 for fiscal year 2005; and

22 “(C) \$62,520,000 for fiscal year 2006.”.

23 **SEC. 7. COURSES AND TRAINING ASSISTANCE.**

24 Section 7(l) of the Federal Fire Prevention and Con-
25 trol Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2206(l)) is amended by adding

1 at the end the following: “The Superintendent shall offer,
2 at the Academy and at other sites, courses and training
3 assistance as necessary to accommodate all geographic re-
4 gions and needs of career and volunteer firefighters.”.

5 **SEC. 8. NEW FIREFIGHTING TECHNOLOGY.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8 of the Federal Fire Pre-
7 vention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2207) is
8 amended—

9 (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
10 section (f); and

11 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(e) DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to, or as part
15 of, the program conducted under subsection (a), the
16 Administrator, in consultation with the National In-
17 stitute of Standards and Technology, the Inter-
18 Agency Board for Equipment Standardization and
19 Inter-Operability, national voluntary consensus
20 standards development organizations, interested
21 Federal, State, and local agencies, and other inter-
22 ested parties, shall—

23 “(A) develop new, and utilize existing,
24 measurement techniques and testing methodolo-

1 gies for evaluating new firefighting tech-
2 nologies, including—

3 “(i) personal protection equipment;

4 “(ii) devices for advance warning of
5 extreme hazard;

6 “(iii) equipment for enhanced vision;

7 “(iv) devices to locate victims, fire-
8 fighters, and other rescue personnel in
9 above-ground and below-ground structures;

10 “(v) equipment and methods to pro-
11 vide information for incident command, in-
12 cluding the monitoring and reporting of in-
13 dividual personnel welfare;

14 “(vi) equipment and methods for
15 training, especially for virtual reality train-
16 ing; and

17 “(vii) robotics and other remote-con-
18 trolled devices;

19 “(B) evaluate the compatibility of new
20 equipment and technology with existing fire-
21 fighting technology; and

22 “(C) support the development of new vol-
23 untary consensus standards through national
24 voluntary consensus standards organizations for
25 new firefighting technologies based on tech-

1 niques and methodologies described in subpara-
2 graph (A).

3 “(2) STANDARDS FOR NEW EQUIPMENT.—If an
4 applicant for a grant under section 33 proposes to
5 purchase, with assistance provided under the grant,
6 equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed ap-
7 plicable voluntary consensus standards, the applicant
8 shall include in the application an explanation of
9 why such equipment or systems will serve the needs
10 of the applicant better than equipment or systems
11 that do meet or exceed such standards.”.

12 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
13 17 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974
14 (15 U.S.C. 2216) is amended by adding at the end the
15 following:

16 “(i) DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY.—There
17 are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to
18 carry out section 8(e)—

19 “(1) \$2,200,000 for fiscal year 2004;

20 “(2) \$2,250,000 for fiscal year 2005; and

21 “(3) \$2,300,000 for fiscal year 2006.”.

1 **SEC. 9. COORDINATION OF RESPONSE TO NATIONAL EMER-**
2 **GENCY.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 10 of the Federal Fire
4 Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2209) is
5 amended—

6 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
7 section (c); and

8 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(b) MUTUAL AID SYSTEMS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, after
12 consultation with the Director of the Federal Emer-
13 gency Management Agency, shall provide technical
14 assistance and training to State and local fire serv-
15 ice officials to establish nationwide and State mutual
16 aid systems for dealing with national emergencies
17 that—

18 “(A) include threat assessment and equip-
19 ment deployment strategies;

20 “(B) include means of collecting asset and
21 resource information to provide accurate and
22 timely data for regional deployment; and

23 “(C) are consistent with the Federal
24 Emergency Management Agency’s Federal Re-
25 sponse Plan.

1 “(2) MODEL MUTUAL AID PLANS.—The Admin-
2 istrator, in consultation with the Director of the
3 Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall de-
4 velop and make available to State and local fire serv-
5 ice officials model mutual aid plans for both intra-
6 state and interstate assistance.”.

7 (b) REPORT ON STRATEGIC NEEDS.—Within 90 days
8 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator
9 of the United States Fire Administration shall report to
10 the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
11 portation and the House of Representatives Committee on
12 Science on the need for a strategy concerning deployment
13 of volunteers and emergency response personnel (as de-
14 fined in section 6 of the Firefighters’ Safety Study Act
15 (15 U.S.C. 2223e), including a national credentialing sys-
16 tem, in the event of a national emergency.

17 (c) UPDATE OF FEDERAL RESPONSE PLAN.—Within
18 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Di-
19 rector of the Federal Emergency Management Agency
20 shall—

21 (1) revise that Agency’s Federal Response Plan
22 to incorporate plans for responding to terrorist at-
23 tacks, particularly in urban areas, including fire de-
24 tection and suppression and related emergency serv-
25 ices; and

1 (2) transmit a report to the Senate Committee
2 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the
3 House of Representatives Committee on Science de-
4 scribing the action taken to comply with paragraph
5 (1).

6 **SEC. 10. TRAINING.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(d)(1) of the Federal
8 Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C.
9 2206(d)(1)) is amended—

10 (1) by striking “and” after the semicolon in
11 subparagraph (E);

12 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as sub-
13 paragraph (N); and

14 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(F) strategies for building collapse rescue;

17 “(G) the use of technology in response to
18 fires, including terrorist incidents and other na-
19 tional emergencies;

20 “(H) response, tactics, and strategies for
21 dealing with terrorist-caused national catas-
22 trophes;

23 “(I) use of and familiarity with the Fed-
24 eral Emergency Management Agency’s Federal
25 Response Plan;

1 “(J) leadership and strategic skills, includ-
2 ing integrated management systems operations
3 and integrated response;

4 “(K) applying new technology and devel-
5 oping strategies and tactics for fighting forest
6 fires;

7 “(L) integrating terrorism response agen-
8 cies into the national terrorism incident re-
9 sponse system;

10 “(M) response tactics and strategies for
11 fighting fires at United States ports, including
12 fires on the water and aboard vessels; and”.

13 (b) CONSULTATION ON FIRE ACADEMY CLASSES.—
14 The Superintendent of the National Fire Academy may
15 consult with other Federal, State, and local agency offi-
16 cials in developing curricula for classes offered by the
17 Academy.

18 (c) COORDINATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS TO
19 AVOID DUPLICATION.—The Administrator of the United
20 States Fire Administration shall coordinate training pro-
21 vided under section 7(d)(1) of the Federal Fire Prevention
22 and Control Act of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2206(d)(1)) with the
23 Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and Human
24 Services, and the heads of other Federal agencies—

- 1 (1) to ensure that such training does not dupli-
- 2 cate existing courses available to fire service per-
- 3 sonnel; and
- 4 (2) to establish a mechanism for eliminating
- 5 duplicative training programs.